



Virginia Manufacturers Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VMA and VaBIO Receive 2007 Southern Growth Innovator Award

RICHMOND, VA -- The [Virginia Manufacturers Association](#) (VMA) and the [Virginia Biotechnology Association](#) (VaBIO) have been selected to represent Virginia as the winner of the 2007 Southern Growth Innovator Award, by the Southern Growth Policies Board. The award, given to the two associations, in cooperation with the [Training Development Corporation](#), for their collaborative **Biotech and Advanced Manufacturing Technology Workforce Project** will be formally presented at this year's [Southern Workforce Summit](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, June 3-5, 2007.

The VaBIO/VMA program was chosen from more than 100 nominees in the Southern region as an outstanding initiative in workforce development. As one of 14 'Innovators' in the Southern region, the VaBIO/VMA program was publicly honored in an awards ceremony and reception hosted by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt on Sunday, June 3, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis.

Brett Vassey of the VMA and Mark Herzog of VaBIO are pleased that the project is being led by former (20-year) Alcoa employee, Ms. Sheryl Bryan. VaBIO and the VMA launched the two-year project late last year to establish certification and assessment standards for advanced manufacturing technicians; develop and operate an outreach, recruitment and pre-screening program; and design, build and operate an innovative training program to qualify advanced manufacturing technicians. Training & Development Corporation is a key operational partner, along with a group of major bio/advanced manufacturing companies.

Ms. Bryan began as Project Director in April after being selected by a peer group through a highly competitive process. As Project Director, she will work with the project's employer-investors and other partners to create, develop and execute the project's ambitious goals and schedule of activities. The principal objective of the project is to deliver a "Competency Development Sequence for Advanced Manufacturing Technicians" in Virginia (see press release link below).

As the project and award has drawn attention around the state, Jill Loope, Assistant Director of Economic Development for Roanoke County, recently noted, "Roanoke County is excited that the Virginia Manufacturers Association and it's partner organizations, the Virginia

Biotechnology Association, as well as the Training and Development Corporation has received the prestigious Innovator Award from the Southern Growth Policies Board. This project is a true collaboration between numerous trade associations, as well as the public and the private sector, with the combined mission to prepare the workforce of the Commonwealth for the 21st century economy. We are also quite pleased that our local biotechnology industry, Novozymes Biologicals was a cornerstone member of the coalition that made this award possible. It demonstrates that we are on the threshold of creating a business cluster of advanced manufacturing employers in the Roanoke Valley, western Virginia and the Commonwealth of Virginia."

Both VMA and VaBIO are committed to meeting the workforce needs of Virginia and will continue their leadership in this vital area. To read more about the VaBIO/VMA project and the federal grant that was awarded to both associations in the Fall, see the October 2006 press release...[**Virginia Receives Nearly \\$1.5 Million to Fund Biotech and Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Project**](#).

About The Virginia Biotechnology Association – www.vabio.org

The Virginia Biotechnology Association, founded in 1992, is the statewide non-profit organization that promotes the scientific and economic impact of the life sciences industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Nearly 160 biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device companies are based in Virginia, mainly clustered around universities in Blacksburg, Charlottesville, Richmond, Norfolk and Northern Virginia.

About the Virginia Manufacturers Association – www.vamanufacturers.com

The Virginia Manufacturers Association develops and advocates constructive public policies, and organizes and supports a broad array of activities, consultative services and programs to help ensure that Virginia remains a good place for manufacturing companies to remain productive, profitable and competitive. Virginia's manufacturers currently support over 298,000 good jobs in Virginia, contribute \$31 billion to the state's gross domestic product, and account for over 84% of the state's exports to the global economy.

About the Training & Development Corporation – <http://www.tdc-usa.org>

Training & Development Corporation is a national, not-for-profit think tank, design shop and management company that specializes in sustainable employability and local economy-building. Since 1995, TDC has operated the Richmond Career Advancement Center to support youth and adults entering the labor market or transitioning to new jobs, and provides strategic planning and logistical support for the Richmond Workforce Investment Board.